

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10 and 12-20 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-8, 10 and 12-20 stand rejected. Claims 1, 12, and 19 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application, drawings and claims as originally filed and, as such, no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 & § 103

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 12-14, 16-18, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith et al. (GB Pat. No. 2 332 722), or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Smith et al. in view of Kubicki (U.S. Pat. No. 2,435,144) or Huck (U.S. Pat. No. 2,030,169). Claims 4 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Smith et al. in view of Kubicki or Huck and in further view of Palm (U.S. Pat. No. 5,183,357). In view of the amendments and comments herein, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's attention is directed to independent Claims 1, 12, and 19. These claims have been amended to include the limitation that the slots "terminate from said first end and increase in width from an outer surface of the shank toward an inner surface of the tubular body." Applicant submits that none of the references teach or suggest this limitation.

Support for this limitation can be found at least at paragraph [0043] and Figures 4 and 6 of the instant application (see below). Applicant notes that while GB 2332722

may teach a mandrel body having slots (12), this reference does not teach slots which "increase in width" (see 118 below).

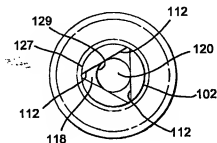


FIG.4



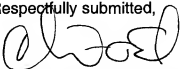
FIG.6

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1243.

Respectfully submitted,

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